

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PA-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HA-05 /069 W  
-----116602 222151Z /72

R 221407Z FEB 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6299  
USUN NEW YORK 470  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
USIA WASHDC

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E O 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINS CZ GW  
SUBJ: TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS

REF: 77 PRAGUE 0708 (NOTAL)

1. NBC CORRESPONDENT LESLIE COLITT, RESIDENT OF WEST BERLIN WHOSE BEAT IS EASTERN EUROPE, REPORTS THAT CZECH MILITARY MISSION HERE YESTERDAY REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIS APPLICATION FOR VISA TO VISIT BRNO FAIR AND PRAGUE. COLITT, WHO IS WELL AND UNFAVORABLY KNOWN TO CZECHS, WAS TOLD THAT VISAS ARE NOT ISSUED TO THOSE WHO SEEK OUT OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT; THIS REASON WAS REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES IN VARYING BUT SIMILAR TERMS. HE HAD ALERTED CZECHS TO HIS INTENTION TO APPLY BY PHONE CALL ASKING NAME OF APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL TO SEE. HE USED APPLICATION FORM, ACCOMPNIED BY PRESCRIBED PHOTO, WHICH HE HAD HAD ON HAND FROM PREVIOUS DEALINGS.

2. CZECH PRESS OFFICER MADE NO SECRET TO COLITT THAT  
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REFUSAL WAS BASED ON INCIDENT OF ONE YEAR AGO (REFTEL), WHICH AROSE BECAUSE COLITT HAD INTERVIEWED PRAGUE MEMBERS OF CZECH CHARTER MOVEMENT. HE WAS TAKEN OFF TRAIN AS HE WAS LEAVING CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HELD FOR EIGHT HOURS AND DEPRIVED OF HIS NOTES (WHICH EMBASSY PRAGUE ULTIMATELY RETRIEVED AND RETURNED TO HIM).

3. WE UNDERSTAND 1977 CASE WAS CITED BY U.S. SPOKESMAN  
DURING BELGRADE CSCE MEETING LAST MONTH. WE ARE REPORTING  
CURRENT VISA REFUSAL AS LATEST CHAPTER IN CONTINUING CZECH  
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH PRESCRIBED PROCEDURES FOR TREATMENT OF  
JOURNALISTS. COLITT HIMSELF HAS NO PLANS OR SUGGESTIONS  
FOR FURTHER ACTION, BUT OBVIOUSLY HOPES US WILL SOMEHOW  
TAKE UP CUDGELS FOR HIM.GEORGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JOURNALISTS, VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978USBERL00418  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780082-0947  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** USBERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780225/aaaaavfb.tel  
**Line Count:** 69  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 56789ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PRAGUE 708  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3513810  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS  
**TAGS:** PINS, CVIS, CZ, GE  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/56789ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014